Indian Health Service Best Practice for Diabetic Foot Care A Strategy for Primary Care Clinicians

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Learner Objectives

- 1. List risk 4 factors for diabetic foot complications
- 2. Be able to conduct a complete diabetic foot exam
- List 3 interventions associated with decreased risk for foot complications
- 4. State 4 educational objectives for patients at high risk for foot complications
- 5. Describe 4 components of the chronic care model related to improving diabetic foot care

Protecting the Diabetic Foot A Strategy for Primary Care Clinicians

- Screening for High Risk Patients
- Practical Interventions
- Implementation into Practice

Why is Foot Care Important for People with Diabetes?

- ~40% will develop peripheral neuropathy
- ~20% have an acute foot problem on foot exam
- ~15% will develop an ulceration (cost ~ \$13-30K each)
- 5-10% progress to amputation (cost ~ 50K/yr each)
- 43% with ulcer and 47% with amputation die in 5 years
- Most amputations can be prevented with resources currently available in primary care
- Most patients with diabetes get their care from primary care providers

CDC, 2008; Harris, 1993; Kumar, 1994; Borrsen, 1990; Reiber, 1999; Stockl, 2004; Rith-Najarian, 2001; Moulik, 2003

Foot Related Rick Factors for Ulceration

Risk Factor	Ulcer	LEA	
Neuropathy	+	+	
Deformity	+	+	
Limited Joint Mobility	+	+	
Prior Ulcer/LEA	+	+	
PVD	+	+	
Onychomycosis	+		

Pham, 2000; Lavery, 1998; Rosenbloom, 1996; Walters, 1992; Kumar, 1994; Fernando, 1991; Rith-Najarian, 1992; Mayfield 1996; Alder, 1999, Boyko, 2006

Non-Foot Related Risk Factors for Ulceration and Amputation

Risk Factor	Ulcer	LEA
Male Sex	+	
Duration DM	+	
Age	+	
hyperglycemia	+	+
hypertension	+	+
dyslipidemia	+	+
smoking	±	±
Vision < 20/40	+	
Other complications	+	+

Moss, 1996; Alder, 1999; Palumbo, 1995; Moss, 1992; Moss, 1999; Litzelman, 1997; Lee, 1993; Boyko, 1999; Nelson, 1988; Selby, 1995; Lehto, 1996; Eggers, 1999; Boyko 2006.

Simple Criteria to Identify High Rick Feet in People with Diabetes

- Insensate to 10-gram monofilament or Insensate to 128-Hz tuning fork
- Foot deformity
- Prior ulcer or amputation
- Absent pulse or abnormal ABI pressure

Diabetes Care, 15:1386-89, 1992; N Eng J Med, 1995;322:269-70. Diabetes Care, 31:1679-85, 2008; Diabetes Res Clin Pract, 70:8-12, 2005 Feet Can Last a Lifetime, NIH/NIDDK, 2002

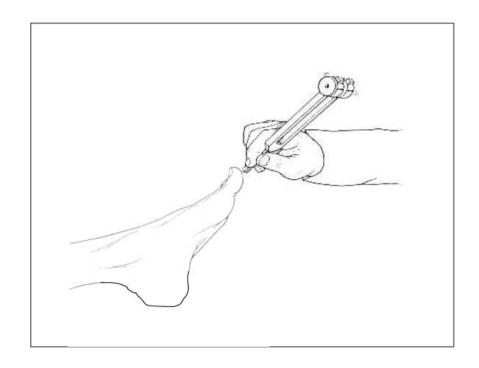


- Press perpendicular to point of bending, hold
 1 second and release
 (Demonstrate on hand)
- Patient Closes Eyes, and acknowledges sensation of pressure with a "yes"
- Test Both Feet, 4 sites each: Great toe and 1st 3rd 5th metatarsal heads (not heel or dorsum)
- Insensate in one or more area confers risk

Perkins, Diabetes Care 2001;24:250-256 Diabetes Care, 1992;15:1386-89

Vibration Sensation Testing 128 Hz Tuning Fork

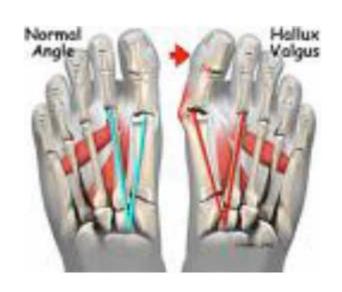
- Tested over the tip of the great toe bilaterally
- An abnormal response can be defined as when the patient loses vibratory sensation and the examiner still perceives it while holding the fork on the tip of the either toe

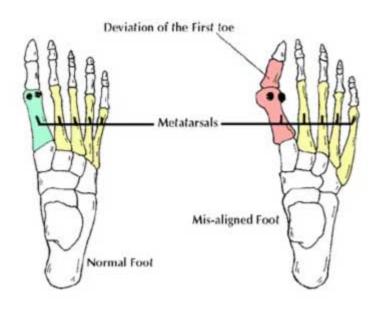


Singh JAMA 293:217–228, 2005 Abbott, Diabet Med 19:377–384, 2002

Development of Foot Deformities

Bunions – hallux valgus





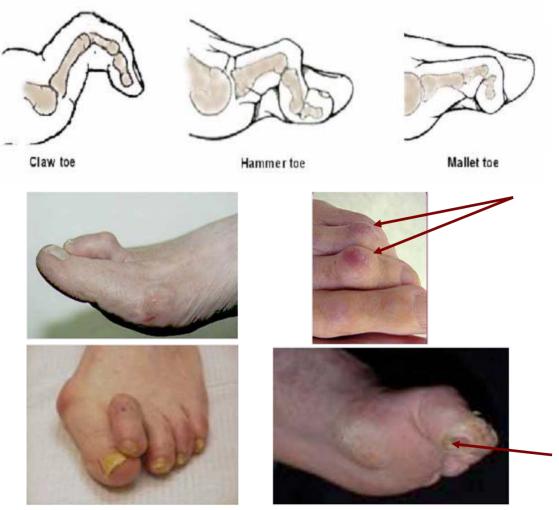
Foot Deformities Associated with Risk for Amputation

Bunions – hallux valgus





Foot Deformities Associated with Risk for Amputation



IHS Division of Diabetes Dec 2009

Foot Deformities Associated with Risk for Amputation Charcot Foot









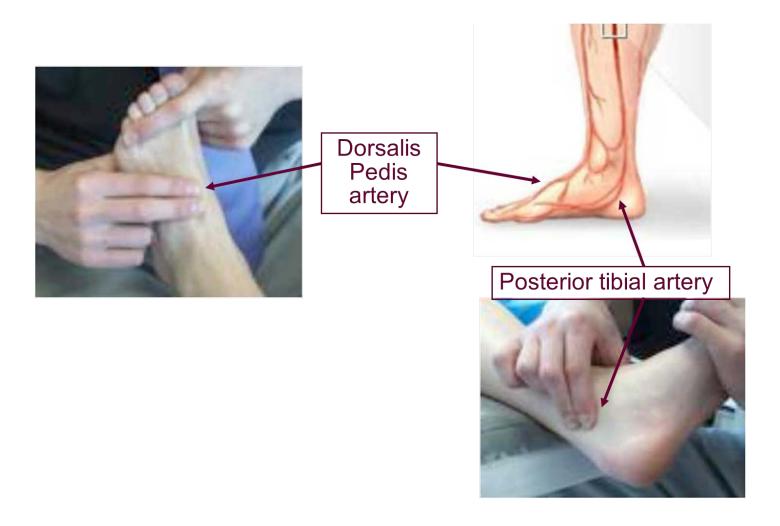


Selected Clinical Assessment of Peripheral Arterial Vascular Status and Abnormal Thresholds

Vascular Test	Abnormal Threshold		
Pedal Pulses:	Absent		
Ankle Brachial Index (ABI):	< 0.8		
Toe BI:	< 0.6		

Pham Diabetes Care 2000;23:606-11 Wang, Circulation 2005;112:3501-3508 Suominen, European J Vasc Surg 2008;35:709

Arterial Anatomy of the Foot



Ankle Brachial Index

- Measure Doppler brachial pressures in each arm
- 2. Measure Doppler Pressure in each ankle
- 3. Calculate ABI: ABI =
 Ankle BP/Brachial BP
 Divide the ankle press
 by the greater of the
 two brachial pressures



From Hurley et al, The Diabetic Foot, 1993

Correlation of POAD Symptoms by ABI Category

Severity Category	ABI Value
Normal	1.0-1.4
Borderline	0.90-0.99 or > 1.4
Mild	0.70-0.89
Moderate	0.40-0.69
Severe	< 0.40

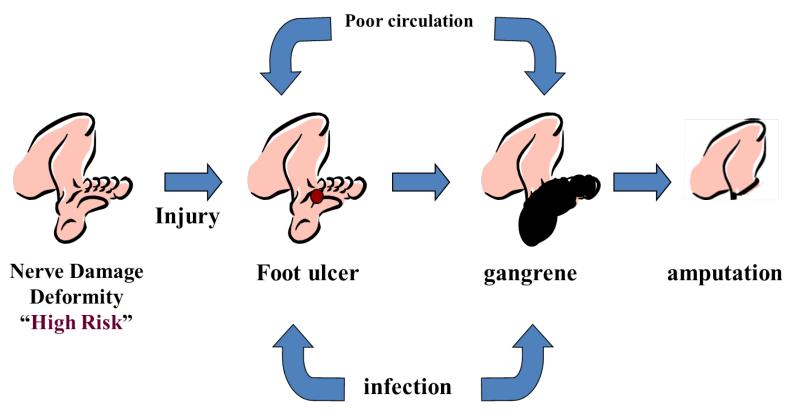
Wang, Circulation 2005; 112:3501-3508

Video of Foot Exam

Protecting the Diabetic Foot A Strategy for Primary Care Clinicians

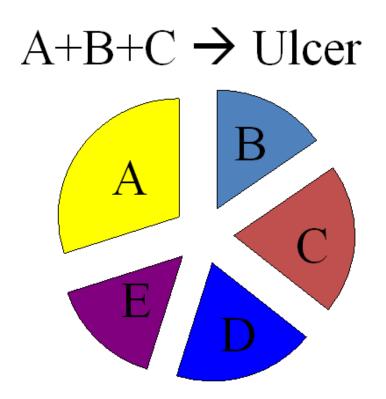
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- Implementation into Practice

Pathways to Diabetic Limb Amputation: a Basis for Prevention



Reiber, Diabetes Care 1999;22:157-62 Pecoraro Diabetes Care 1990;13:513-21

Component Causes Present in Casual Pathways Leading to Foot Ulcers in Persons with Diabetes



Component Cause	Percentage (%)
Neuropathy	78
Minor Trauma	77
Deformity	63
Edema	37
Callus	30
Infection	1
Ischemia	35

Reiber, Diabetes Care, 1999;22:157-62

Strategies to Prevent or Delay Development of Common Component Causes of Foot Ulceration and Amputation

Component Cause	Intervention Strategy	
Neuropathy	Good glycemic control, Education on Risk for foot injury	
Minor Trauma	Clear Walking Space, Nightlights, Protective footwear	
Deformity	Accommodative footwear, Education to support footwear	
Edema	Footwear accommodative to of edema Reduce edema: pharmacologically, compression stockings	
Callus	Regular removal of callus Footwear that minimizes callus development	
Infection	Education on reporting problems early	
Ischemia	Reduce risk for atherosclerosis (hypertension, and lipid control, smoking cessation) Revascularize for critical ischemia	

Reiber, Diabetes Care, 1999;22:157-62

Association of Patient Education and Amputation Prevention

Program	Reduction in LEA	
	Rate	
Veterans, Tucson USA	70%	Malone, 1989
Kisa, Sweden	80%	Larrson, 1995
Kings College, London	44%	Edmonds, 1999
Geneva, SZ	85%	Assal, 1993
Madrid, Spain	50%	Calle-Pascual, 2001

Evidence-Based Education and Treatment Objectives for All Patients with Diabetes

Low-Risk Feet

- Control glucose
- Control Blood Pressure
- Control Lipids
- Smoking Cessation

Dyck, 1999; Moss 1992; Moss 1999; Boyko 1999; Goldberg, 1998; Pyorala, 1997; UKPDS, 1998 Haire-Joshu, 1999

Evidenced-Based Footcare Educational Objectives for Patients with Diabetes

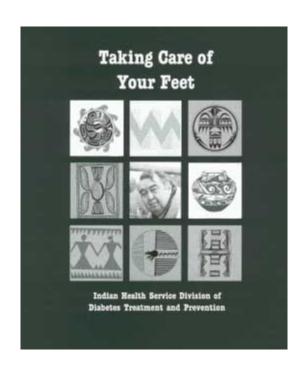
High Risk Feet

- Daily washing and inspection
- Clear walking area of dangerous objects
- Appropriate footwear (selection, fitting, & use)
- Use slippers indoors No barefoot
- Proper Nail and Callus Care (no bathroom surgery)
- Avoid extreme temperatures
- Avoid soaking
- Report problems promptly (Infections, ulcers, cuts that do not heat)

Calle-Pascual, 2001; Reiber, 1999; Ward, 1999; Barth, 1991; Malone, 1989; Edmonds, 1986



IHS Patient Education Materials on Footcare Pre-tested for Learner Comprehension





Hosey, Diabetes Educ 1990;16:407-414

http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Diabetes/RESOURCES/Catalog/rde/index.cfm?module=catalog

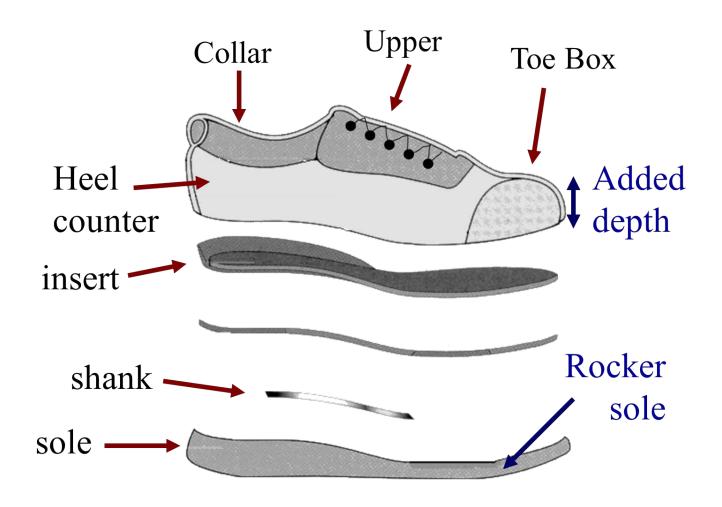
Footwear and Prevention of Foot Lesions

•	Reduced	Peak	Planter	Pressures	> 50%
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- Reduced callus formation > 30%
- Ulcer recurrence rates reduced > 50%
- LEA rate reduced > 70%

Viswanathan Diabetes Care 2004;27:474-477 Chanteleau, Diabet Med 1994;11:114-6 Ashry, J Foot Ankle Surg 1997;36:268-71 Edmonds, Q J Med 1986;60:763-71

Footwear Anatomy 101



Footwear Selection

- Normal feet: standard shoes
- Insensate feet: quality walking shoe or added depth shoe
 - Adjustable upper
 - Firm heel counter
 - Padded insert and collar
 - Broad sole with nominal lift
- Insensate feet + Minor deformity: added depth shoe + custom insert
- Major Deformities: custom molded shoes

Tovey, Diabet Med 1984;1:69-71; Dahmen, Diabetes Care. 2001;24:705-9

Custom-Molded Inserts and Extra-Depth Shoes





Fitting Shoes

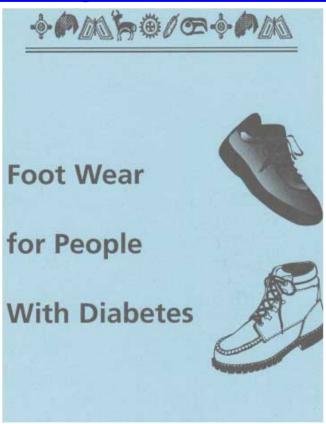
- Select shoes that match the shape of the foot
- Measure both feet while standing
- Fit while wearing standard socks
- Fit largest foot
- 1 cm length between longest toe and shoe tip

Tovey, Diabet Med 1984;1:69-71

Footwear Precautions

- Break-in:
 - Start half-hour on first day
 - Then increase by half-hour increments per day
 - Inspect for redness after wearing
- Change shoes 1 to 2 times daily
- Check for foreign bodies
- Replace when worn out

http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Diabetes/RESOURCE S/Catalog/rde/index.cfm?module=catalog



Here are Some Tips for Buying New Shoes to Help You Protect Your Feet?

- Buy shoes in the afternoon. Most people's feet will be swollen by the afternoon.
- Tell the salesperson you have diabetes.
- Have the shoe salesperson measure both feet.
- Test the shoe fit by wearing them for at least 5 minutes in the store.
- If shoes hurt when you try them on, do not buy them.
- Break in new shoes by wearing them for 1-2 hours at a time for the first few days.
- Never wear new shoes all day.
- Check your feet for redness or irritation. If the shoes are causing redness or irritation, return them as soon as possible.

Medicare Therapeutic Footwear Benefit

3 steps:

- Physician Certification for Therapeutic Footwear (MD, DO)
- Footwear Prescription (usually a Podiatrist)
- Fitting and dispensing (usually a Pedorthist)

Sugarman,. Diabetes Care 1998:777-81.
Wooldridge. Am J Public Health 1996::935-8



Routine Podiatry Care for People with Diabetes

Associated with:

Increased self-foot care knowledge and 30% reduction in callus *Ronnemaa Diabetes Care, 1997;20:1833-1837*

54% reduction in ulceration rates in case control study of 91 diabetic patients with a history of foot ulcers

Plank, Diabetes Care 2003;26:1691-1695

75% reduction in LEA rates in Medicare patients with diabetes and high-risk feet who received palliate podiatry foot care services *Sowell, J Am Podiatr Med Assoc* 1999;89:312-7

Principles of Podiatry Care for People with Diabetes

- Lubricate skin
- Trim nails
- Reduce callus

Suico, 1998;; Murray, 1996 Murray, 1996

Lubricate Dry Skin

- Autonomic neuropathy contributes to dry skin
- Instructed Patients to apply a moisturizing lotion daily
- Oil or water based lotions are a mater of patient preference
- May need care giver to assist



Lubricate Dry Skin



Nail Trimming: Normal Nails

- Use nail nippers, strait or curved.
- Good lighting, comfortable position, safety glasses
- Stabilize the toe with one hand, cut with the other
- Start at one edge and follow the curve.
- File any sharp edges with emery board



Nail Trimming: Normal Nails



Nail Trimming: Curved Nails

- Use nail nippers, strait
- Good lighting, comfortable position, safety glasses
- Start at one edge and follow the curve
- Avoid cutting into corners
- File any sharp edges with emery board





Nail Trimming: Thick Mycotic

- Tend to be very brittle
- Can use nail nippers or dremmel to trim off sharp edges
- Best to refer to a podiatrist or certified foot care nurse





Callus Debridement

- Good lighting, gloves, alcohol swab, and #15 disposable scalpel
- Wipe with alcohol swab, callus tissue will turn white
- Shave or pear down callus gradually
- Palpate intermittently to feel when you are close to pliable "normal" tissue, then stop.





Callus Debridement



Principles of Wound Care

- Assessing foot Wounds
- Classifying foot wounds
- Management of uncomplicated wounds
- Vascular Assessment
- When to refer

Assessing Foot Wounds

Begin by assessing the following criteria:

- Wound dimensions.
- Quality of the wound bed and edges.
- Surrounding erythema and cellulites.
- Penetration to deep structures (fascia, tendon, bone, FB)
- Lower extremity blood flow.
- Signs of systemic infection (Temperature, WBC)

Standard Classification Foot Wounds

University of Texas Wound Classification

Grade		Stage	
0	Pre-ulcer	Α	no infection or ischemia
1	Superficial	В	infection
2	Soft Tissue	С	ischemia
3	Bone or Joint	D	infection & ischemia

Armstrong, Diabetes Care 1998;21:855-859

Management Principles Uncomplicated Wounds

- Clean and moist environment
 - Wound Debridement
 - Regular Dressing Changes
- Off loading
- Oral antibiotics directed by culture
- Monitoring of size
- Outpatient management appropriate
- May need to hospitalize for off loading
- Limited use of adjective healing agents
- Control glucose



Dressing Principle

- Wet to Dry Saline gauze dressing daily is the main stay.
- Adsorbent compounds are useful for soupy wounds
- Hydrocolloid gels and occlusive dressings have a role in dry wounds.
- Enzymatic debridement may be useful to soften eschar

Nutrition and Wound Healing

- Positive Nitrogen Balance for Anabolic State
- Vitamin C 500mg daily
- ZnSO4 220mg Daily x 10d then MVI with trace minerals QD

Heyman, J Wound Care. 2008;17:476-8, 480 Desneves, Clinical Nutrition, 2005 Dec;24:979-87

Simple Wound: Debridement



Management Principles Complicated Wounds

- Inpatient management appropriate initially
- Initial Surgical Wound Debridement
- Vascular Assessment and appropriate intervention
- Clean and moist environment:
 - Regular Dressing Changes
 - Consider Negative Pressure Wound Therapy
- Parental Antibiotics directed by culture
- Off loading
- Monitoring of size
- Consider use of adjunctive healing agents

Factors Associated with Diabetic Foot Wound Healing

Risk Factor	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	
Sex	1.14 (1.08, 1.20)	
Age	1.01 (1.00, 1.01)	
Grade*	1.93 (1.82, 2.05)	
Wound duration *	1.30 (1.27, 1.32)	
Wound size*	1.32 (1.30, 1.34)	

*P<0.0001

Margolis, Diabetes Care 25:1835-1839, 2002

PATIENCE! <25% ulcers healed at 12 weeks

Margolis Diabetes Care, 1999;22:692-695

Off Loading with Commercial Healing Shoes

Half Shoes ~\$50-80

Removable Cast Walkers ~\$150-500







70% patients did not increase activity and used device only 28% of time

30% patients record more activity, but only use device 60 % of time

Armstrong, Diabetes Care 26:2595-2597, 2003

Adjunctive Wound Healing Therapy

- All Associated with higher and faster healing rates
 - Growth factors (~15-25%)
 - Skin graphs (~50%)
 - Hyper baric Oxygen (~20%)
 - Electro-stimulation (?)
 - Maggot Therapy (~50%)
- Dependent on adequate vascular supply and clean wound
- High cost and not always covered by insurance

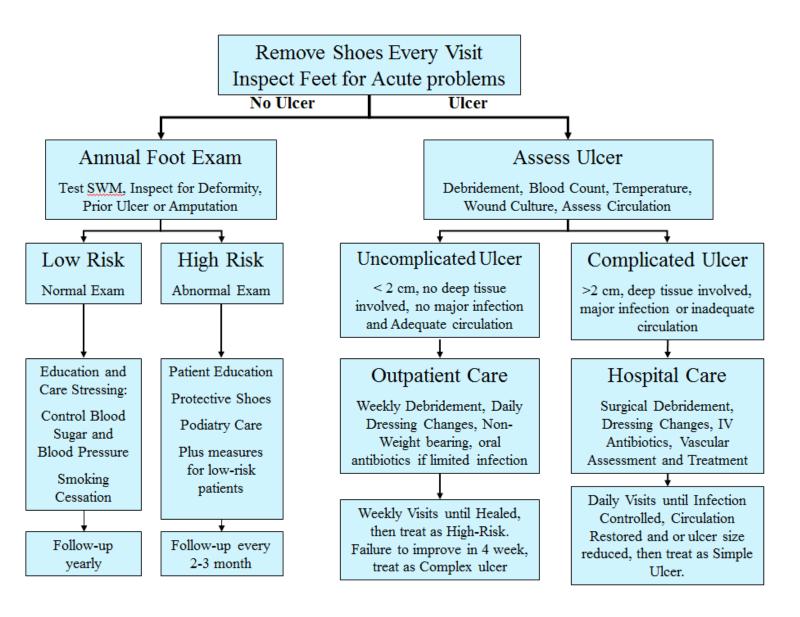
Weiman, Diabetes Care 1998;21:822-7;Gentzkow Diabetes Care 199;19:350-4; Faglia, Diabetes Care. 1997;20:1207-8; Peters, Foot Ankle Surge 1998;37:396-400; Veves, Diabetes Care 2001;24:290-295, Kessler Diabetes Care 2003;26:2378-2382; Carravaggi Diabetes Care 26:2853-2859, 2003; Sherman Diabetes Care 26:446-451, 2003

Adjunctive Wound Healing Therapy a Rational Approach

- Ensure the basics first: clean wound, off loading, control infection, good nutrition, metabolic control, assess circulation.
- Monitor healing, if less than 50% reduction in size after 4 weeks, chances of healing < 10%. Consider adjunctive agents as resources permit. Sheehan, Diabetes Care 2003;26:1879-1882; Margolis, Diabetes Care 26:1696-1700, 2003
- Some adjunctive treatments require large capital expenditures. Resources may be better spent on a case manager which can improve all aspects of diabetic care.

Criteria for Vascular Evaluation in the Diabetic Foot

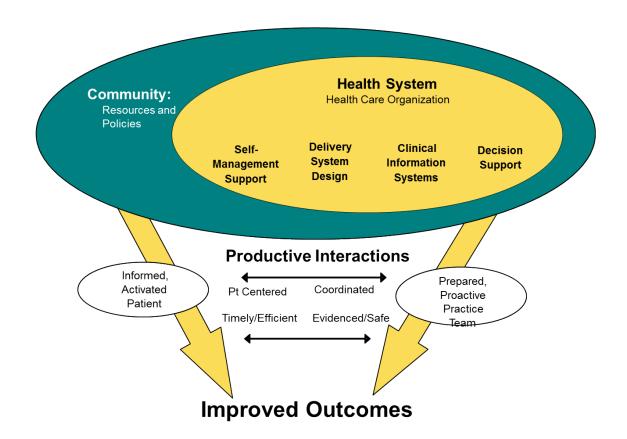
- Ulcer with clinical signs of ischemia
- Non-healing ulcer
- Rest pain
- Nocturnal pain
- Lifestyle limiting claudication



Protecting the Diabetic Foot A Strategy for Primary Care Clinicians

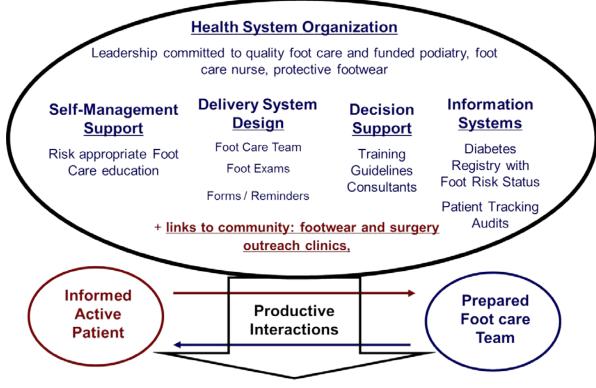
- Screening for High Risk Patients
- Practical Interventions
- Implementation into Practice

Improving Chronic Disease Care: The Chronic Care Model



Wagner EH. Effective Clinical Practice. 1998;1:2-4.

Chronic Care Model – Diabetic Foot Care Best Practice



Fewer Foot Ulcers and Amputations

Reiber, Lancet, 2005;366:1676-7

http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/diabetes/resources/bestpractices.asp

System Redesign: Foot Care Team

Physician/PCP

Nurse Educator



Registrar and Patient Scheduling

Podiatrist

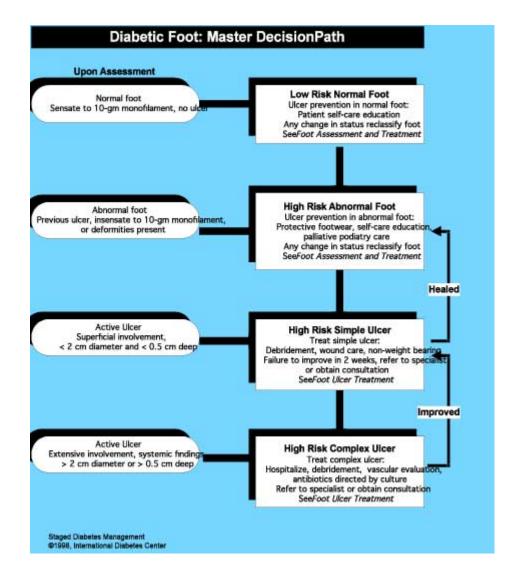
Surgeon

PHN

CHR

Clinic Administration and leadership

Decision Support Foot Care Guidelines



Rith-Najarian, J Fam Pract 1998;47:128-132

1994-1996 System Redesign Foot Care Team

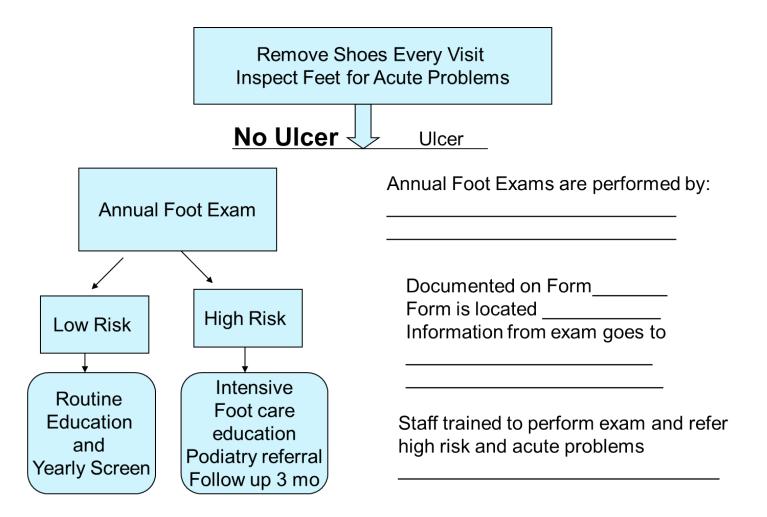
Moving the Guideline to Practice

Team Coordination

- Input from the team to customize Guidelines
- Delineation of roles
- Documentation
- Training needs
- Measures for monitoring and evaluation



Example of Customization Questions

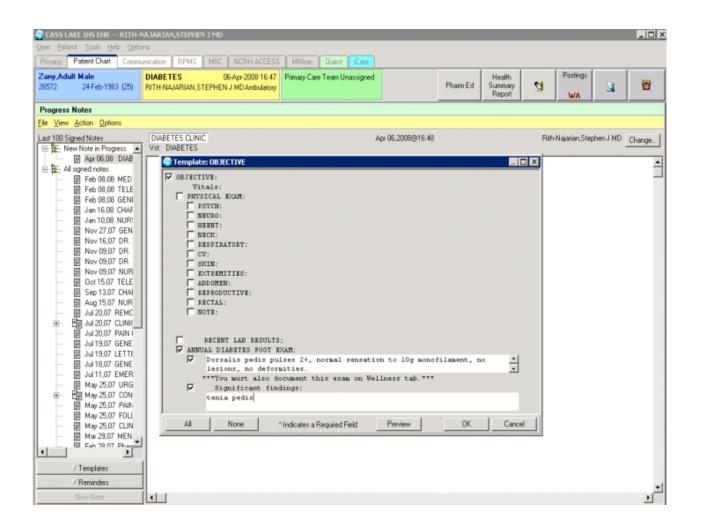


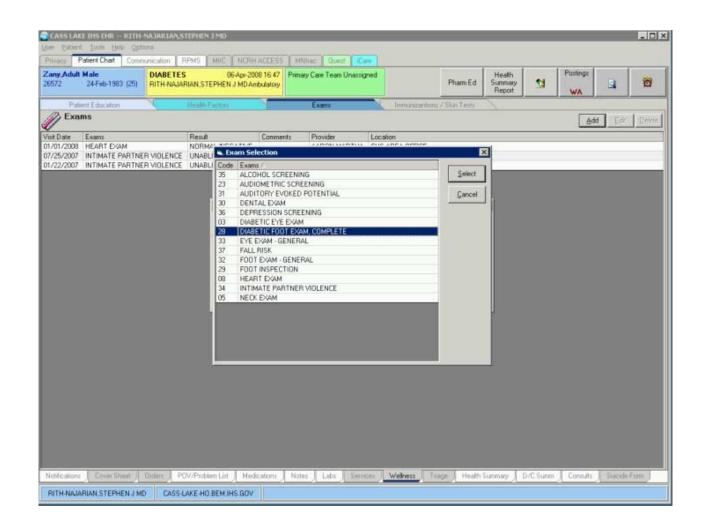
1994-1996 System Redesign Reminders and Documentation Forms

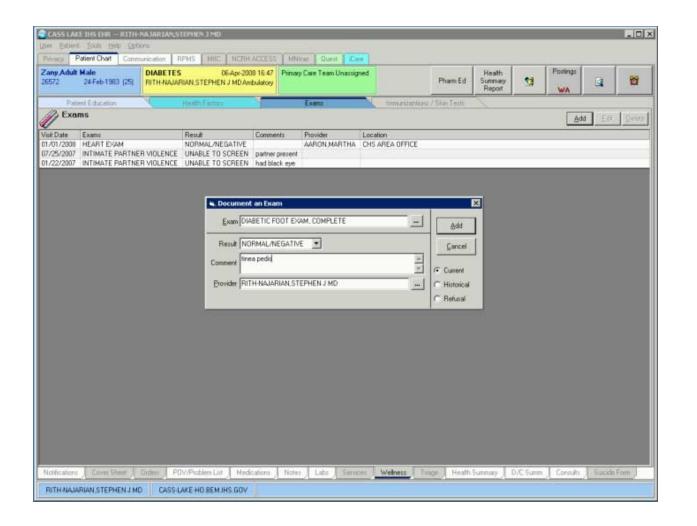
- Exam & Risk Factors
- Assessment
- Treatment plan
- Referrals

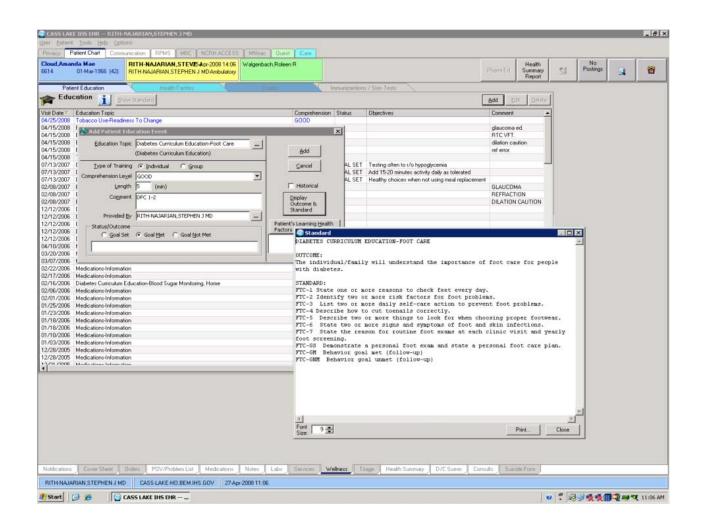












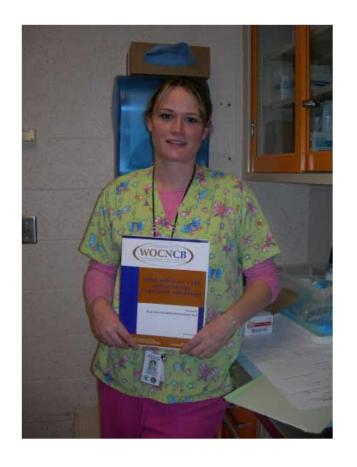
System Redesign: Foot Care Case Manager



Foot and Nail Care Certification Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Certification Board

Exam Eligibility Requirements

- Current RN license, and either #2 or #3:
- Completion of formal foot and nail program including five hours didactic; three hours of clinical practice with direct foot and nail care, or
- Completion of experiential pathway including five hours CE; plus eight hours of clinical practice (under supervision of expert).

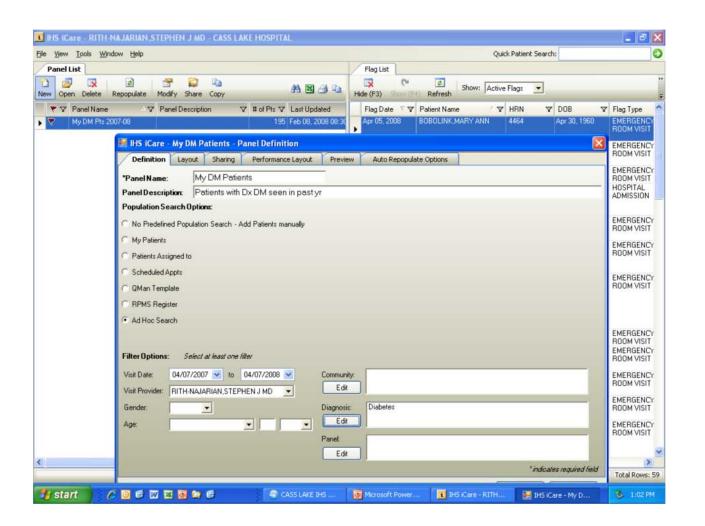


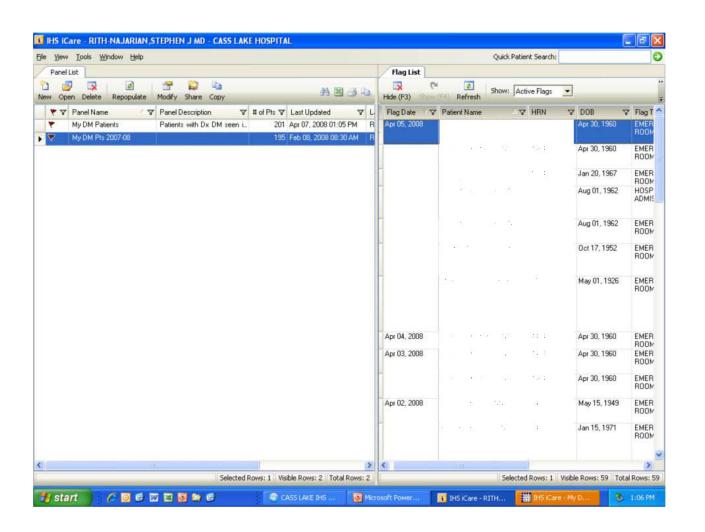
Training: http://www.wocncb.org/become-certified/foot-and-nail/education-courses.php

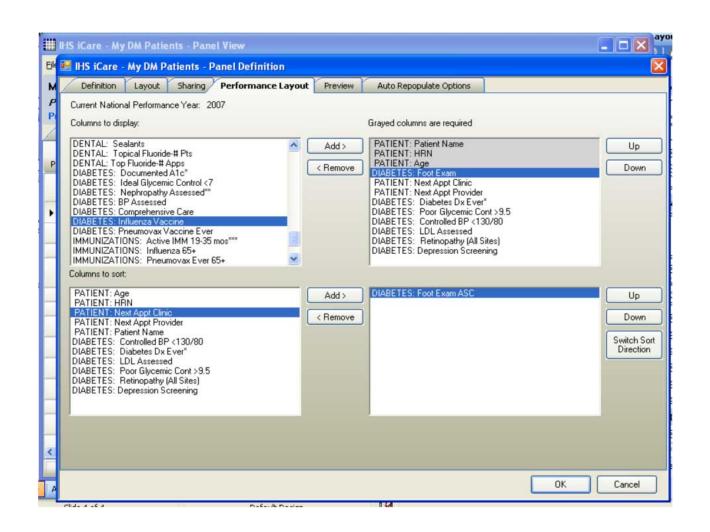
Exam: http://www.wocncb.org/become-certified/foot-and-nail/eligibility.php

Information Technology Electronic Diabetes Registry



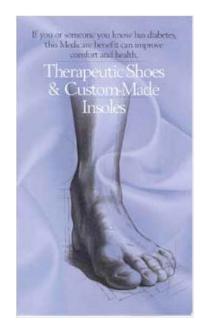








Community Linkages Referrals for Therapeutic Footwear

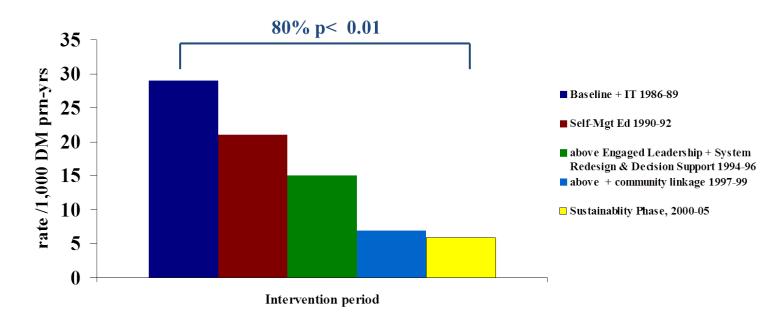




Community Linkage Wound Care Outreach Clinic



Average Annual Incidence Lower Extremity Amputations (LEA) among Diabetic Patients according to Chronic Care Model Intervention Period in an Indian Health Service Primary Care Setting



1986-1996: J Fam Pract 1998;47:128-132

1997-1999: Diabetes Care 2000;23:1445-46

2000-2005: Bemidji Area IHS Diabetes Program; CCM Interventions: Lancet 2005;366:1676-7

Stepped Approach for IHS "Best Practice" for Diabetic Foot Care

Comprehensive Program

Includes all of the previous elements plus ...

☑ footcare team ☑Wound healing ☑Outreach services
☑track outcomes

Intermediate Program

Includes all of the previous elements plus...

☑ Footcare CPGs ☑ Podiatry and Footwear available ☑ Field Health trained ☑Track care process

Basic Program

☑ DM Team adopts standards of care ☑ DM Registry ☑ Annual Foot screening ☑ Risk Appropriate Foot Education ☑ Podiatry, footwear & field health referrals ☑ Annual Diabetes Audit

Is Your Program Ready?

Do we have the following items in place?

☑Perceived need by providers & community ☑Administrative Support for CQI ☑

Functional IT support ☑Access to Footcare services ☑Functional Diabetes team

http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/diabetes/resources/bestpractices.asp

Selected Internet Resources for Diabetic Foot Care

 IHS Best Practices – Foot Care <u>http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Diabetes/HomeDo</u> cs/Tools/BestPractices/bp06 FootCare.pdf

Feet Can Last a Lifetime - NIH
 http://www.ndep.nih.gov/resources/feet/index.htm

 Lower Extremity Amputation Prevention Program (LEAP) - HRSA

http://bphc.hrsa.gov/leap/default.html